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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 28 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as representative of the coordinating country for the participating States of the GUUAM Group (Georgia, Ukraine, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova), it is my honour to transmit to you the following documents adopted by GUUAM: (a) Final communiqué of the GUUAM Summit (see annex I); (b) Declaration on common efforts to ensure stability and security in the region (9-20 July 2002, Yalta) (see annex II); (c) Communiqué of the first meeting of the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the States members of GUUAM (18 September 2002, New York) (see annex III); and (d) Protocol of the second session of the GUUAM Working Group on Fighting Terrorism, Organized Crime and the Spread of Narcotics (29-30 October 2002, Baku) (see annex IV).

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 28 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Final communiqué of the GUUAM Summit

On 19 and 20 July 2002, in Yalta, Ukraine, the regular meeting of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine was held, in the course of which the issues of strengthening the organizational and legal basis of the GUUAM Group and the further development of cooperation within the framework of the Group were discussed.

The Presidents confirmed the firmness of their positions on the issues of combating terrorism and organized crime, and stressed the need for the prevention of any actions aimed at support of separatist and extremist forces and at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the GUUAM participating States. They stressed the urgent need for early settlement of the continuing conflicts on the basis of norms and principles of international law.

The Heads of State signed the Declaration on common efforts to ensure stability and security in the region (see annex II), in which they stated the determination of their countries to provide political, legal and organizational bases for overcoming the challenges of international terrorism, separatism, intolerance and extremism.

Today's signing of the Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of the GUUAM participating States in the Combat against Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crime is an important step in this direction.

Attaching special meaning to the issue of combating the laundering of proceeds from crime, and also to the danger of the use of such resources for financing terrorist activities, the Presidents tasked the Governments to thoroughly examine the issue of establishing close interaction between the GUUAM Group and the Financial Action Task Force on Money-Laundering.

The Heads of State discussed the implementation of decisions of the previous GUUAM Summit. All sides stressed the priority character of developing overall cooperation within the GUUAM framework, aimed at broadening commercial and economic links and further developing and providing secure and efficient functioning of the GUUAM transport corridors, with primary consideration being given to the Europe-Caucasus-Asia corridor.

The Heads of State took note of the prospects of realizing the Euro-Asian oil transportation corridor project within the concept of providing multiple routes for the transportation of Caspian energy resources to world markets.

Increased strengthening of the institutions of the Group, the creation of favourable conditions for sectoral interaction and the attraction of other countries and organizations to various aspects of GUUAM cooperation were determined as basic tasks of cooperation within the GUUAM framework at this stage.

The Agreement on the Establishment of a Free-Trade Area, signed at the Summit, is expected to play a special role in improving the economic conditions and the more efficient use of the commercial potential of the GUUAM participating States. The Presidents agreed to make their best efforts to achieve early implementation of the necessary domestic procedures for the entry of this Agreement into force. The conclusion of additional treaties on cooperation in separate sectors among the participating States will promote the same purpose.

While discussing ways of broadening cooperation in concrete spheres, the Presidents paid special attention to the issue of the establishment and the activities of GUUAM sectoral working groups in the fields of: transport; energy; economy and commerce; communication and information technologies; culture; tourism; science and education; combating terrorism; and organized crime and drug proliferation. The Heads of State took note of the adoption of the GUUAM programme of work for 2002-2003 as a basis for providing the systematic and consistent development of interaction in these fields.

In this connection, the President tasked the Governments to intensify the development of joint projects and programmes of sectoral cooperation in the framework of relevant working groups, which are supposed to bring the interaction between the GUUAM participating States to a qualitatively new level of practice.

The Heads of State stressed the importance of actively engaging private companies and entrepreneurs in their countries in the realization of joint projects and programmes. The Presidents welcomed the signing of the agreement on the establishment of the Business Council of GUUAM participating States by the Heads of the Chambers of Trade and Commerce.

Taking into consideration the vast cultural heritage of the GUUAM countries, their input into the world civilization and the wide prospects of the GUUAM initiative for the creation of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia cultural corridor, the Presidents took note with satisfaction of the signing of the Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Culture within the framework of GUUAM for 2002-2005.

Progress was achieved as a result of the work of the Summit in the field of institutionalization of the Group. The Statute of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of GUUAM and the provisional Statute of the GUUAM Information Office were signed.

The Presidents took note with satisfaction of the positive interaction of the GUUAM countries within the framework of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and other international organizations, and stressed the purposefulness of the development of agreed positions on foreign policy initiatives of the GUUAM Group and interaction on the issues of GUUAM cooperation with other States, international organizations and institutions.

The Presidents took note of the increasing interest of the international community in the activities of the GUUAM Group, which was confirmed by the participation of representatives of foreign States and international organizations in the work of the Summit. In this connection, the Presidents emphasized the importance of the decision on the status of observers of GUUAM activities adopted by the Heads of the GUUAM participating States.

Noting the importance of establishment and strengthening of close contacts between the legislative bodies of the member States of the Group, the Presidents agreed to present the initiative of establishing a GUUAM Parliamentary Assembly for the consideration of their national Parliaments.

The Heads of State welcomed the establishment of the GUUAM information office in Kyiv, noted the key importance of this office in the promotion of cooperation within the GUUAM framework, and also the interaction of the Group with other States, international organizations and institutions.

The Presidents commissioned an annual report on GUUAM activities during 2002-2003 to be presented for the consideration of the Heads of participating States at the next summit.

It was agreed to hold the next GUUAM summit in Yalta, Ukraine, in 2003.

Done at Yalta on 20 July 2002 in four copies in the English and Russian languages.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) Heydar **Aliyev**

For Georgia
(*Signed*) Eduard **Schevardnadze**

For the Republic of Moldova
(*Signed*) Vladimir **Voronin**

For Ukraine
(*Signed*) Leonid **Kuchma**

Annex II to the letter dated 28 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Declaration on common efforts to ensure stability and security in the region

We, the Heads of State of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine,

Taking into account the

Ongoing transformation of the system of international and regional security,

Strengthening of threats to national and international security such as international terrorism, extremism and aggressive separatism,

Concentration of these threats and, related to them, such negative phenomena as organized crime, trafficking in human beings, distribution of narcotics, illicit trafficking in weapons and money-laundering in the zones of unsettled conflicts within the territories of certain States,

Statement of the United Nations Security Council that acts of international terrorism constitute one of the most serious threats to international peace and security in the twenty-first century, as well as a challenge to all States and all of humanity,

Importance of further improvement and strengthening of the system of international and regional stability and security and the creation of perquisites within the system of international relations for exclusion of recurrence of tragedies similar to the terrorist acts of 11 September 2001,

Need to combat terrorism at the global level,

Need for stable and secure development of our countries and the region as a whole,

Following the provisions of Yalta Charter of GUUAM, which envisage that strengthening regional security in all spheres of activity and combating terrorism and organized crime represent one of the main goals of the Group,

In order to ensure consistent fulfilment of our obligations arising from United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1377 (2001) and the norms of international conventions and treaties in the combat against terrorism,

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

In the name of regional security, peace, stability and prosperity,

DECLARE

The resolution of our States to provide political, legal and organizational bases for overcoming the threats of terrorism, separatism, intolerance and extremism and related illegal actions;

The readiness to counteract those threats by consolidating the efforts of participating States, inter alia, through:

- Creating relevant conditions within the Group to coordinate actions in this field;
- Aligning national legislations;
- Establishing and developing a permanent system of information and experience exchange to counteract those threats and risks;
- Implementing joint programmes to improve mechanisms to prevent terrorist activities and organized crime;
- Joint operative actions in relevant spheres;
- Developing national systems to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorist activities;
- Improving the system of ensuring security of State borders and the effective functioning of border controls;
- Implementing measures to ensure the security of transport corridors;

The need for the earliest settlement of ongoing conflicts on the basis of norms and principles of international law;

The desire to develop fruitful cooperation in ensuring security with interested countries and organizations.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) Heydar **Aliyev**

For Georgia
(*Signed*) Eduard **Schevardnadze**

For the Republic of Moldova
(*Signed*) Vladimir **Voronin**

For Ukraine
(*Signed*) Leonid **Kuchma**

Yalta, 20 July 2002

Annex III to the letter dated 28 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Communiqué of the first meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM member States

New York, 18 September 2002

The first meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM member States was held on 18 September 2002 in New York (United States of America).

In the course of the meeting, the questions of cooperation and the development of GUUAM were discussed. The Council discussed the state of implementation of the agreements reached during the Second Summit of the Heads of State of GUUAM, held on 19 and 20 July 2002 in Yalta (Ukraine). The Ministers noted the need to speed up the process of ratifying the documents signed and recommended stepping up efforts to implement them. The Council noted the priority task of implementing the Agreement on the Establishment of the GUUAM Free-Trade Area and, in this connection, highly assessed the initiative of holding in Kyiv in November 2002 a meeting of the Preparatory Committee on the OSCE-GUUAM project.

The Ministers considered the questions relating to the implementation of the GUUAM Programme of Activities for 2002-2003, adopted on 2 July 2002 in Baku, and entrusted the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) with the task of completing the selection of the members of the branch working groups and also distributing the chairmanships of these groups.

The Council underscored the importance of speedily beginning the practical activities of the branch working groups aimed at drawing up multilateral cooperation projects, and called upon the coordinator countries to carry out the work of organizing their meetings by the end of this year with the goal of approving the programmes of activities.

The Council considered questions concerning the activities of the GUUAM Information Office in Kyiv. The Ministers entrusted the Committee of National Coordinators with the task of reaching final agreement on the Office's budget with account taken of the project drawn up at the meeting of the representatives of the GUUAM member countries in Kyiv and to begin the drafting of the Charter, which will clearly define its functions and tasks. In order to augment the Office's activities, a recommendation was made to consider the question of setting up an Office information portal.

The Ministers emphasized the importance of cooperation among the GUUAM States in combating terrorism and organized crime, strengthening border control, halting the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and guaranteeing security and the effective functioning of transport corridors, and noted that, during the planned meeting of experts of member States in October 2003 in Baku, specific projects within the framework of this cooperation will be considered. In this connection, the

Ministers underscored in particular the importance of cooperation with the United States of America in drawing up and carrying out such projects.

The Council underscored the need for interaction among the GUUAM States within the framework of international organizations and entrusted their States' missions to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organizations with the task of making joint efforts to bring about a strong condemnation of any actions that undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their States, including aggression and other forms of the illegal use of force, as well as outside support from separatist and extremist forces acting illegally in the territory of some GUUAM member States. The GUUAM States will also cooperate in order to step up the activities of international organizations aimed at speedily resolving ongoing conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law.

The Ministers agreed to hold the second meeting of the Council in the city of Porto (Portugal) in December 2002, during the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE member countries.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) (*Illegible*)

For Georgia
(*Signed*) (*Illegible*)

For the Republic of Moldova
(*Signed*) (*Illegible*)

For Ukraine
(*Signed*) (*Illegible*)

Annex IV to the letter dated 28 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Minutes of the second meeting of the GUUAM Working Group on Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and the Spread of Narcotic Drugs

Baku, 29-30 October 2002

The second meeting of the GUUAM Working Group on Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and the Spread of Narcotic Drugs took place on 29 and 30 October 2002 in Baku. Representatives of the corresponding ministries and departments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine and of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Baku participated in the meeting. A delegation from the United States of America and representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Centre were also present at the meeting.

The GUUAM heads of State defined as priority goals cooperation within the GUUAM framework in combating terrorism, organized crime and the spread of narcotic drugs. Cooperation by the GUUAM member States in these fields was laid down in the Yalta Charter of GUUAM and the Declaration of the Heads of State on common efforts to ensure security and stability in the region, and the Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of the GUUAM Member States in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crime.

The objective of the meeting of the GUUAM Working Group in Baku was to discuss ways of implementing the Declaration of the Heads of State on common efforts to ensure security and stability in the region, and the Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of the GUUAM Member States in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crime.

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. A. Azimov, opened the meeting.

The Deputy Minister of National Security of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. F. Iskenderov, spoke about questions relating to combating terrorism in Azerbaijan and strengthening cooperation in this field within the GUUAM framework.

The representatives of the delegations of Georgia, Ukraine, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United States of America and also the representative of the SECI Centre made introductory statements on the questions under discussion.

The representative of the United States made a statement setting forth in detail the proposal of the United States State Department on "the programme for promoting trade and transport". The participants in the meeting discussed in detail this programme and took a decision to draw up a single framework document based on it, which should include joint projects in the following basic areas of cooperation: information exchange, improving the security of transport corridors,

strengthening the control and passage points on the borders of GUUAM countries, training and preparation of personnel for border and customs services, the establishment of a normative legal basis for cooperation, and operational coordination on the part of law enforcement agencies. Discussion of joint cooperation projects was continued within the framework of three working groups set up in the following fields:

1. Cooperation in the field of customs and border control;
2. Establishment of an information exchange system;
3. Cooperation by law enforcement agencies in combating terrorism, organized crime, the spread of narcotic drugs and other dangerous types of crime.

Within the working groups, the participants in the meeting reached agreement on the following projects for inclusion in the framework programme:

1. Establishment of a GUUAM virtual centre for combating terrorism, organized crime, the spread of narcotic drugs and other dangerous types of crime;
2. Establishment of a single information area for exchanging data on counter-terrorism;
3. Proposals on implementing projects to strengthen cooperation and coordination of GUUAM countries in the border and customs fields.

The participants in the meeting agreed that it was expedient to continue to draw up and implement the projects set forth in the draft framework programme through intersectoral working groups in accordance with the following scheme:

Point I — A working group on combating terrorism, organized crime and the spread of narcotic drugs;

Point II — A working group on combating terrorism, organized crime, the spread of narcotic drugs and a working group on informatics and telecommunications;

Point III — A meeting of the heads of border and customs departments.

The participants in the meeting took a decision to transmit the draft framework programme for consideration by national departments on an accelerated basis in order to submit it for consideration and approval at a meeting of the GUUAM States and the United States of America, which is to be held in Porto in the framework of the Conference of OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 6 and 7 December 2002.

The group took a decision to propose that the GUUAM Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs should consider the candidature of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the chairmanship of the GUUAM working group on combating terrorism, organized crime and the spread of narcotic drugs.

The delegates agreed on the need to step up completion of the procedures within States for ratifying the Agreement on the Establishment of the GUUAM Free Trade Area and the Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of the GUUAM Member States in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crime.

The delegations recommended speeding up the process of considering the agreement on mutual cooperation in customs matters between the Governments of GUUAM member States by the corresponding national departments of GUUAM States.

The delegations agreed that the dates and venue for holding the next meeting of the Working Group would be determined through diplomatic channels.

The delegations of the GUUAM States expressed appreciation to the delegation of the United States of America and the representatives of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Centre and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The participants in the meeting took note of the proposal to organize a visit of GUUAM experts to the SECI headquarters in Bucharest in order to exchange experience.

Attachment: the draft GUUAM-USA framework programme to promote trade and transport, ensure border and customs control and combat terrorism, organized crime and the spread of narcotic drugs.

For the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) (*Illegible*)

For the delegation of Georgia
(*Signed*) (*Illegible*)

For the delegation of Ukraine
(*Signed*) (*Illegible*)